Ammanford Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health's

Report

For 1955.

"Amman Valley Chronicle," Ammanford.

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Ammanford Urban District Council.

AMMANFORD,

JULY, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fourth Annual Report for the year 1955.

I am pleased to be able to report again that it was a good year for Public Health in the area.

There was a small outbreak of Measles towards the end of the year, but this was general throughout the country.

There was a fall of twenty in the estimated population, but the figure was still 134 greater than at the 1951 Census. From the Census Tables, I found that in 1951 24 per cent. of the population were under 15 years of age and 13.9 per cent. were of pensionable age, compared with 13.7 per cent. for the whole County.

In Ammanford, there were 1,994 householders occupying 1,875 houses, and the average number of persons per room was 0.65 compared with 0.70 in the County. In 1955, the number of houses had increased to 1,992.

Mr. Sunderland terminated his appointment with the Council at the end of July, but continued as Meat Inspector until Mr. Collins commenced duties in November. I wish to thank both these Inspectors for their assistance and co-operation, and also the Members of the Council and Staff for their continued interest and support in the work of the Health Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. G. M. Herbert, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. L. Sunderland, M.S.I.A., Public Health Inspector.

Mr. E. V. Collins, Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	944 Acres
Population (mid-year, 1955)	6,710
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,992

Number of Houses completed in the Urban during 1955:—

(a) By the Council	24 houses
(b) By Private Building	3 houses
Rateable Value	£30,594
Net Product of Penny Rate	£111

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births:—

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	41	49	90
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population:—

Ammanford	13.42
Carmarthenshire	13.31
England and Wales	15.0

	M.	F.	Total
Still Births—Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:—

Ammanford	21.74
Carmarthenshire	24.04
England and Wales	23.2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Deaths under 4 weeks:—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Death Rate of Infants per 1,000 Live Births:—

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales for 1955 was the lowest ever recorded in the Country—24.9 per 1,000 Live Births.

The rate for Ammanford was lower than in 1954, as there was one less death and slightly more births.

The two deaths occurred within a week of birth—one due to congenital malformations and one to prematurity.

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Under 1 year ...	22 22	26.4	24.9
Under 4 weeks ...	22.22	18.92	—

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from Pregnancy or Child-birth.

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Rate per 1,000 total Births ...	0.00	2.1	0.64

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1955:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	1	1	2
Other Infective or Parasitic Diseases	0	1	1
Cancer	12	9	21
Inter-Cranial Vascular Disease ...	12	4	16
Coronary Disease	6	6	12
Heart Disease	8	7	15
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	3	7
Diabetes	0	2	2
Influenza	2	3	5
Diptheria	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	8	0	8
Peptic Ulcer	1	0	1
Nephritis	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	2	0	2
Suicide	0	1	1
Other Ill-defined Diseases ...	4	4	8
All Causes ...	65	44	109

There was an increase in the number of deaths this year —67.9 per cent. were of pensionable age; 60 per cent. of the males and 79 per cent. of the females. Pneumoconiosis was the cause of a contributory factor in 15 per cent. of the male deaths.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Population:—

Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
16.2	14.10	11.7

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER:—

Site	Age Groups											
	45–55		60–65		65–70		70–80		Over 80		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Lungs and Bronchus	1		1								2	
Stomach ...	1		3					2			4	2
Colon ...							1	3	1		2	3
Pancreas ...						1		1				2
Kidney and Prostate					2		1		1		4	
Uterus ...				1								1
Other Sites ...								1				1
Total ...	2		4	1	2	1	2	7	2		12	9

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications received during 1955 ... Total 88.

Influenza and Pneumonia were more prevalent in the early months of the year and Measles in the later months.

No case of Poliomyelitis was notified.

CLASSIFICATION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Ammanford U.D.C.	Carmarthen County
Measles	71	3,094
Scarlet Fever	2	109
Whooping Cough	1	130
Pneumonia	12	186
Poliomyelitis	0	18
Erysipelas	2	7

Food Poisoning.—No cases were reported during the year.

DIPHTHERIA:—

For the ninth year in succession, no Diphtheria occurred in the Area.

There was an increase in the number of children immunised during the year as 450 School children received a booster dose at School In the 0-5 group, 67 receiived the full course of Diphtheria or combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Inoculations from their family doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinic. Children may receive

TUBERCULOSIS:—

Eighteen cases were notified during the year, but three of the male cases were transfers from another district.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the Town in 1955, but there is a permanent Unit stationed at Trinity Place, Swansea (near the Central Police Station).

Classification of New Cases of Tuberculosis in Age Groups:—

Ages.	Respiratory. M.	Respiratory. F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	Non-Respiratory. F.
0—10 years	2	3		
10—15	1			
15—25	0	3		
25—35	1	3		
35—45	1	1		
50—60	1	1	1	
	6	11	1	

Deaths from Tuberculosis:—

There were two deaths during the year, one male and one female, both suffering from chronic diseases.

Tuberculosis Rates per 1,000 Population:—

	Case Rate.	Death Rate.
A.U.D.C.	2.69 ...	0.29
C.C.C.	1.35 ...	0.24

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

During the year a number of visits were paid to persons reported to be in need of care and attention. Arrangements were made for some of these to receive Home Help Assistance, and this enabled them to remain in their own homes. Others were persuaded to enter Homes for the Aged voluntarily. In no case was it necessary to apply for an Order.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS.

A few of the Students holding Scholarships granted by the United Nations Organisation for the Social Science Course at Swansea University, again visited Ammanford for three weeks prior to commencing their studies, to observe local welfare and social services.

The Students and their Tutors expressed their appreciation for all the help they received from the Health Department.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The followong Clinics are held at the County Clinic premises in High Street, Ammanford.

Ante-Natal Clinic—Thursday morning.
Post Natal—Alternative Thursday afternoons.
Infant Welfare—Alternative Tuesday afternoons.
Orthopædic—Monday.
Chest Clinic at 24 Quay Street—Tuesday mornings.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS.

National Welfare Foods, which were formerly distributed at the Health Department, are now distributed at the Wesleyan School Room every Tuesday and Friday afternoon, from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

MIDWIVES.

There are two qualified Midwives practising in the area.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A County Ambulance and Car is stationed in the Town.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Supply of Water for the District was again plentiful throughout the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have worked satisfactorily. On the whole, the supply was good and fairly regular.

The Joint Water Board is faced with abnormal pressure conditions, a wide variation of pressure as between day and night being inseparable from the present supply system.

The Water is sampled by the Joint Water Board. and reports are satisfactoy. The entire population is served direct.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewers have again functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Disposal Works, and is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. It is now proposed to construct additional disposal facilities in order to prevent the overloading of the works which now occurs.

When this work has been done, there is no reason why our Sewers should not cope adequately with the growth of the Town.

One case of flooding was reported in the Domestic Sewerage System, but this was proved to be surcharging by the Trunk Main

RIVERS, ETC., POLLUTION.

During the year there has been no serious pollution of rivers in the district. The most serious source of pollution at present is the discharge of washery effluents from Collieries outside the Urban Area. These effluents are treated by subsidence before discharge, and when the tanks are kept clear of silt, the effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition, but it does not appear that this is done sufficiently often.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers	1985
No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers	3
No. of Houses with Closets built on the Conservancy System. not able to connect to Sewers	6

PUBLIC CLEANSING—DRY REFUSE.

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collection being made by the Council Lorry twice weekly from all parts of the Town. The Refuse when collected, is tipped at Myddynfych Farm and Rhydymaerdy. The Myddynfych tip is outside the Urban Area. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers' and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the Tradesmen by tipping on a farm near Betws disposed of by burying on the Council Tips. In my opinion, immediately the supply postion improves, steps should be taken to enforce the provision by householders of proper Dustbins, as all kinds of insanitary receptacles are now used It has always been the exception to see a proper covered Dustbin in the streets of the Town. all kinds of boxes, tins and buckets being used for the purpose. Under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act 1936, the provision of a proper covered Dustbin can be enforced.

PRIVIES, CESSPITS, ETC.

The contents of the remaining Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their gardens, and the Cesspits, being built on the soakaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No. of Inspections made for Nuisance	407
No. of Informal Notices served	76
No. of Statutory Notices served	30
No. of Abatement Orders through Magistrates Court...	2
No. of Water Leakage Inspections	106
No. of Water Leakages Notices	43

CAMPING SITES.

There are no Licences now in force. There do not appear to be any suitable site within the Urban Area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary under this head.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Urban Area.

SCHOOLS.

There are five Schools in the Area and one Private School, and frequent visits are paid to them. The sanitary condition of the Council Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the Sewers, and with an abundant supply of Water from the Public Water Mains.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Area, nor are there any Registered Houses let in Lodgings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

MILK.

No. of Dairies in Urban Area	2
No. of Milk Shops in the Urban Area	4
No. of Inspections made	26

Four Retailers sell Pasteurised Milk, which is produced, treated and bottled outside the Area, and one sells T.T. Milk, also brought into the Area from outside.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. The general quality is good.

From the date of de-control in July, 1954, one Slaughter-house has been Licensed.

The major portion of the meat consumed in the Town is purchased from the Farmers' Meat Corporation, and the quality is excellent.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number of Bakehouses on the Register	6
Number of Inspections made	38

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area. No action was taken by the Local Authority in the matter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Houses fumigated after cases of Infectious Diseases	3

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories on the Register	53
Number of Inspections made	214

All defects brought to the notice of Factory owners and managements were attended to.

CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE.

Work has continued on the control of the Rat population, the added powers given to Local Authorities, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act being of particular value.

Financial assistance is still given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and, while this continues, work can be carried on without too great a financial burden being carried by the rates.

Numbers of rats are destroyed by following up complaints received from householders

During the year a County Committee was set up in Carmarthenshire in order to provide for liaison between the various Authorities.

Your obedient servants,

G. M. HERBERT, M.O.H.

E. V. COLLINS, P.H.O.

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